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Governor Kean talks with Richard Trechel, who lives close to the site where dioxin was found.

Staff photo by Peter Monsees

Kean visits a nervous Newark

By Daniel Akst
Staff Writer

NEWARK — Governor Kean spent three hours yesterday in the neighborhood adjacent to a disused herbicide factory where high levels of the toxic chemical dioxin have been found. Meanwhile, state officials pushed ahead with plans to investigate 10 other sites for possible contamination, including one in Clifton and another in Hawthorne.

Sometime this week, state and federal technicians will test the only one of those sites that is not now in use, that of the Chemical Insecticide Corporation of Edison.

Facilities at the other sites, including the Givaudan Corporation plant in Clifton and the Calgon Corporation plant in Hawthorne, will submit testing plans — and eventually findings — to the state, said Jerry Burke, a state environmental lawyer who accompanied Kean to Newark yesterday. Burke said the state would probably test samples from the sites as well.

Givaudan and Calgon said Friday they are cooperating in the investigation but that there is no dioxin problem at the facilities.

Kean disclosed that efforts are underway to find and relocate former employees of the Newark herbicide plant, which was first owned by the Diamond Alkali Corporation and later by its successor, the Diamond Shamrock Corporation. The two companies operated the plant in a period roughly extending from 1969 to 1979.

The dioxin, found last week, was an unintended byproduct.

See KEAN, Page A-16

COUNTIES NEW JERSEY